



# CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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CAPITOL SPOTLIGHT  
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## DANCE FOR FREEDOM: A MUST

On Saturday evening, March 12th, my wife, Janet, and I will be in Los Angeles so that we can participate personally in the "Dance for Freedom". This extraordinary event deserves the massive support of our entire community. The "Dance for Freedom" will be held at 8:30 p.m. at the Pacific Design Center at Melrose and San Vicente in West Hollywood. I hope every reader of this column will be there!

The "Dance for Freedom" promises to be a most exciting and consequential event. Months of work have gone into its preparation. Every medium of communication--from music to speech to video displays--will be employed.

The "Dance for Freedom" is not an undertaking of a single group or agency in the community. To the contrary, scores of temples, campus Hillel associations, youth groups and respected educational institutions such as the Simon Weisenthal Center, Yeshiva University and the University of Judaism will all take part.

The "Dance for Freedom" comes at an especially critical point in the history of Soviet Jewry. The mass emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union which began in 1971 has come to almost a complete halt. The new figures for 1983 indicate that the Soviets are issuing exit visas at an even slower rate than they did in 1982 ('82 was, by far, the worst year in the entire history of Soviet Jewish emigration).

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the "Dance for Freedom" is the highlighting of 31 specific Soviet Jews who have sought permission to leave, but have been refused. The list is a veritable "Who's Who" of Soviet Jewry. Included on the list are world-famous writers, scientists and artists. Special attention is given to such individuals as Ida Nudel, Iosif Begun, and Vladimir Selpeck--individuals whose courage and sacrifice have captured the imagination of the entire world.

Each of the 31 refusniks has been sponsored by a particular community organization. The organization has done research on "their refusnik" and set up a dramatically lit booth with a giant blow-up

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photo of the refusnik and a detailed pictorial biography. During the entire program, there will be guides available to each booth to discuss the refusnik's past history and present circumstances.

The mood of the "Dance for Freedom" will definitely be up-beat. Its purpose is to send a message of hope to the Soviet Union and to reaffirm local support for Soviet Jewry. The Dance itself will be accompanied by musical selections of all sorts. Food and drink will be available. The Dance will conclude with a dramatic group rendition of the Israeli national anthem, "Hatikva"--a word which literally means "hope".

From my own travels in the Soviet Union, I guarantee every person who attends the "Dance for Freedom" that Jews in the Soviet Union will know about this event in detail within days of its occurrence. I will never forget the detailed questions I was asked by Soviet Jews about candle-light marches and petition drives in cities all over the United States. With the news from the Soviet government so grim, it is more important than ever for Soviet Jews to know that their fellow Jews in free lands have not abandoned them. We cannot instantly change Soviet emigration policy. However, by participating in the "Dance for Freedom," we can unify and mobilize our own community and send a powerful message of hope to the 2.5 million Jews now living in despair.

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